

MISSIONARY CARTOONS



CAROL EVAUL

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BY CAROL EVAUL

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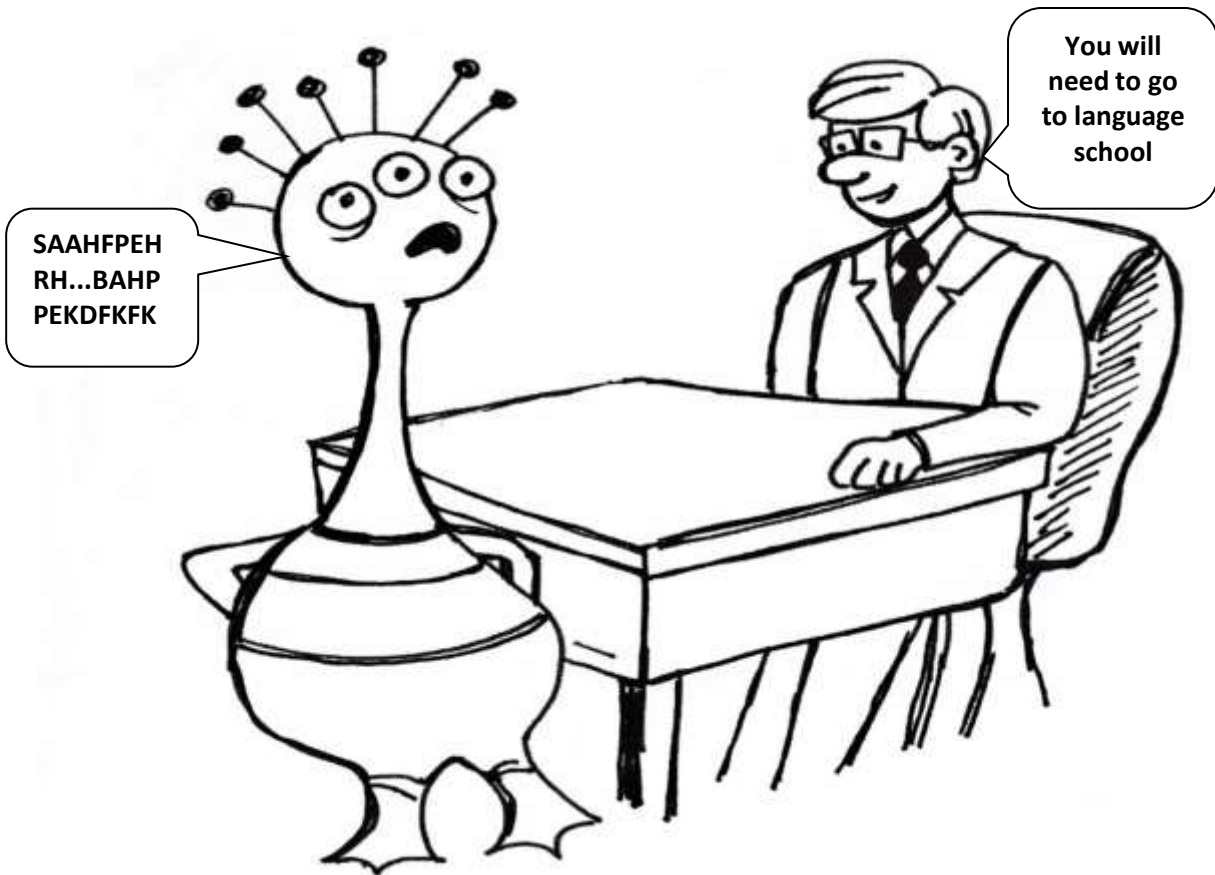
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The scripture quotations are followed by "KJV" and are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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MISSIONARY CANDIDATES...
WHERE WILL THEY COME FROM?
Missionary candidates are not easy to find.



Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

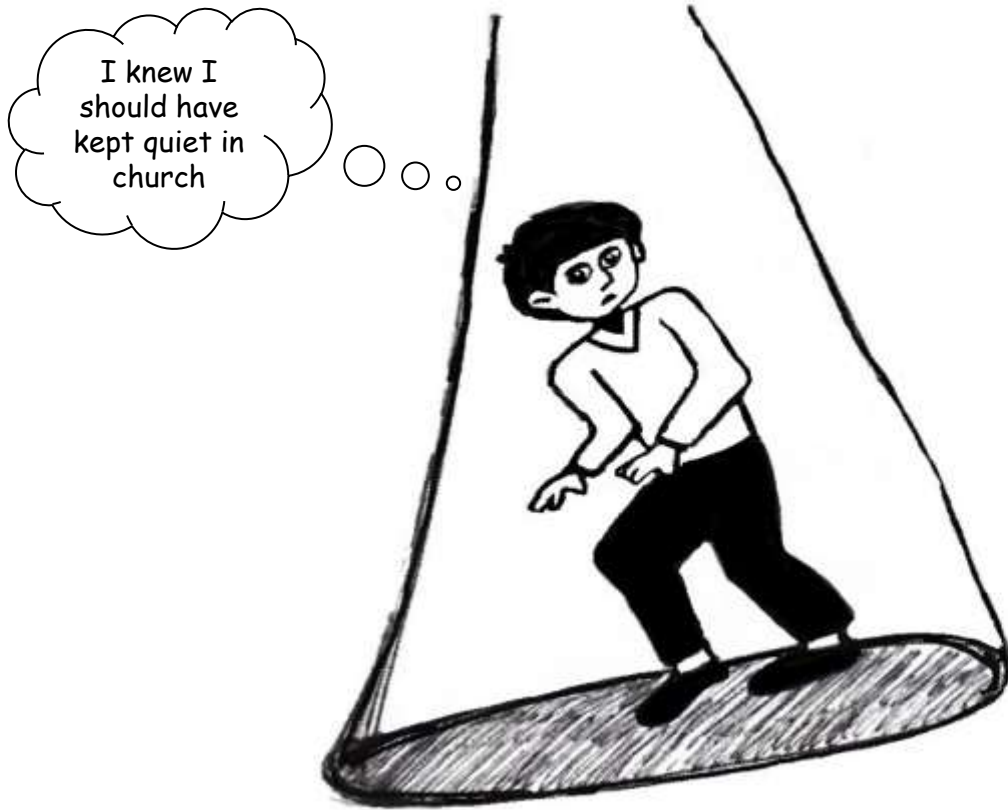
OBSERVATION: THOSE MISSIONARIES ARE DIFFERENT
Missionaries undoubtedly are a "separate and
strange lot."



Hebrews 11:13 (KJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

REASONS WHY PEOPLE REALLY BECOME MISSIONARIES

John Q. Missionary talked in church. He has ADHD. He was selected to become a missionary and live in some remote place in the world.

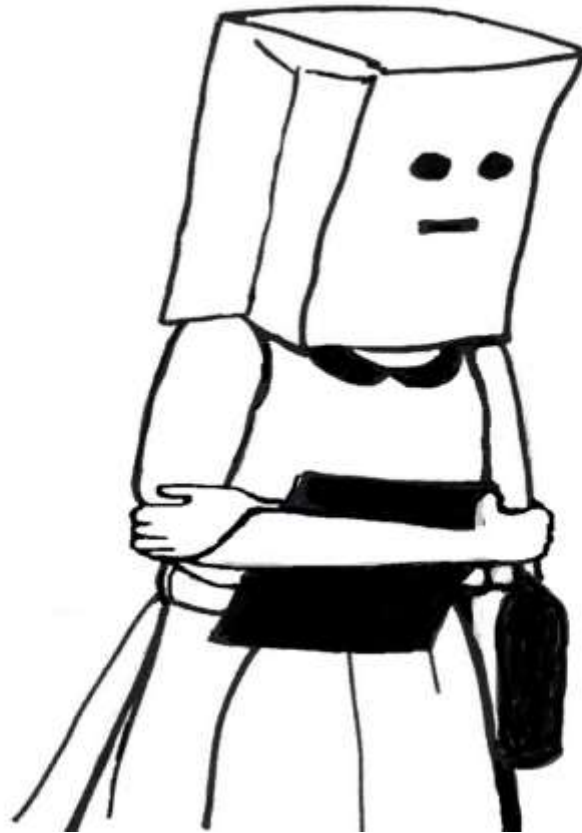


1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NIV) Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

TYPICAL MISSIONARY STEREOTYPES AND MYTHS

Jane T. Missionary feels so ashamed because she never learned to play the piano, obviously a basic expectation for any missionary wife.



Luke 1:37 (KJV) For with God nothing shall be impossible.

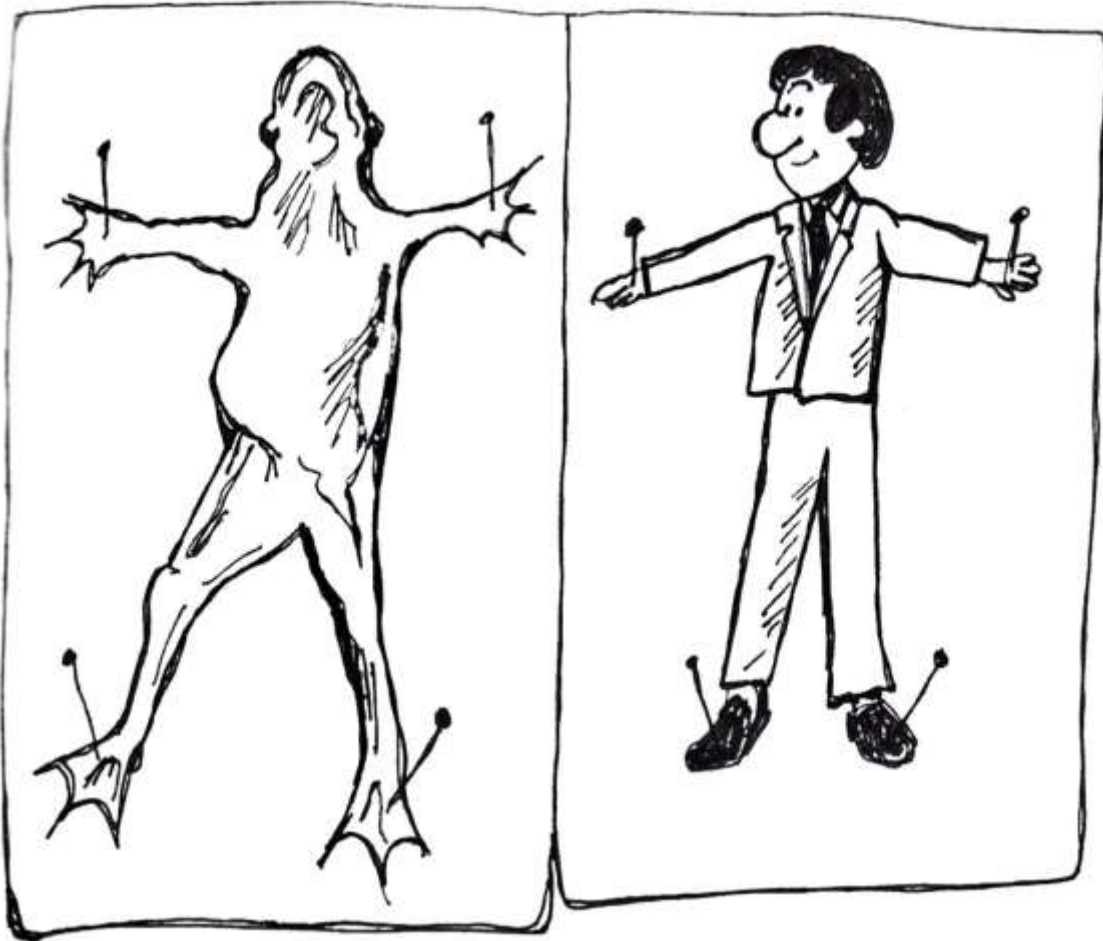
MISSIONARIES - WEIRDOS? John Q. Missionary feels like a real "oddball" since he has become a "missionary." He is trying to fill the role. It takes an adjustment.



Hebrews 11:38 (KJV) Of whom the world was not worthy: they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

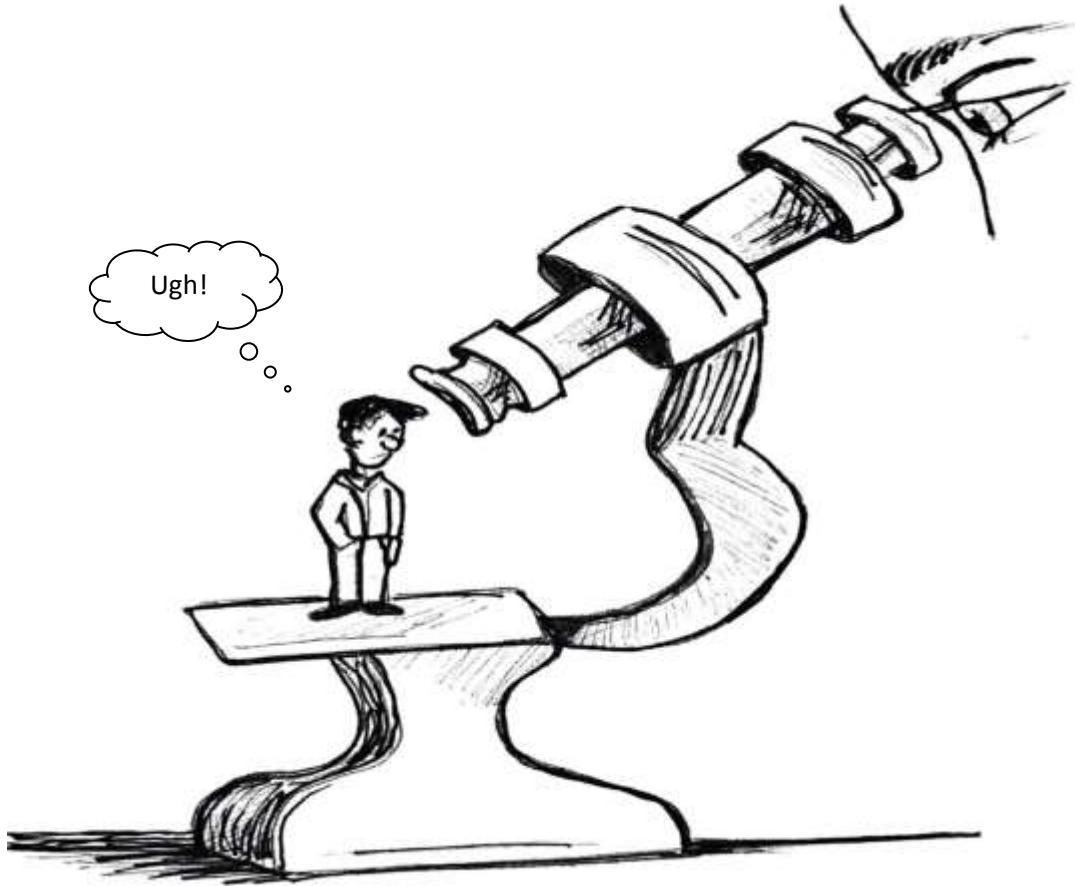
MISSIONARY INSPECTION

John Q. Missionary feels more vulnerable as a missionary. Certainly, he should be "perfect?"



2 Corinthians 13:5-6 (NIV) Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

MISSIONARY CANDIDATES NEED TO BE APPROVED
John Q. Missionary feels rather daunted by the process
of becoming approved.



2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

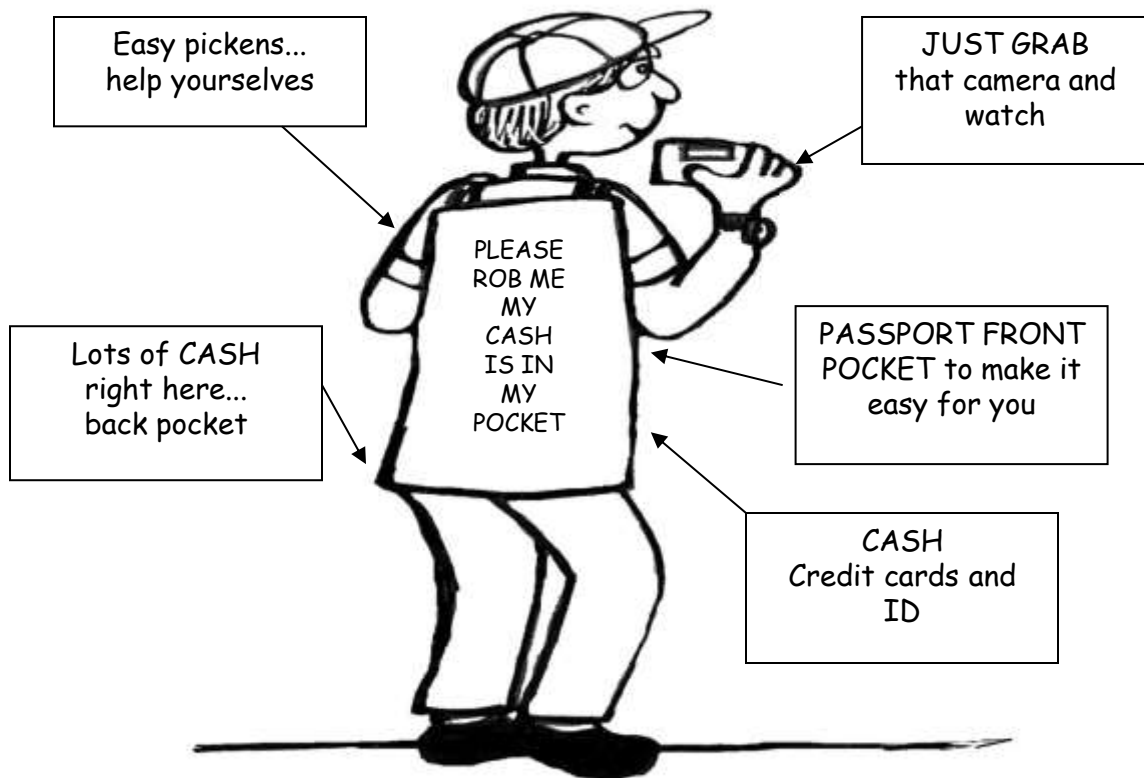
MISSIONARY PREPARATION

John Q. Missionary worries if he is ready to become a missionary.



2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

LEARNING THE CULTURE THROUGH MISTAKES
John Q. Missionary arrives to the mission field,
as a "clueless missionary."



CLUELESS MISSIONARY

Romans 1:16 (NIV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS FROM EVERYONE
John Q. Missionary has a hard time staying on
that so called "missionary pedestal."



2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (KJV) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND DISCOURAGEMENT

John Q. Missionary is a "spiritual target" since becoming a missionary!



Ephesians 6:12-13 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

FISHBOWL LIFE...

YOUR LIFE MADE INTO A TOTAL SPECTACLE

John Q. Missionary discovers what it is like to live in a fish bowl, everyone is always watching all the time.



Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

CONSTANTLY LEARNING TO ADAPT

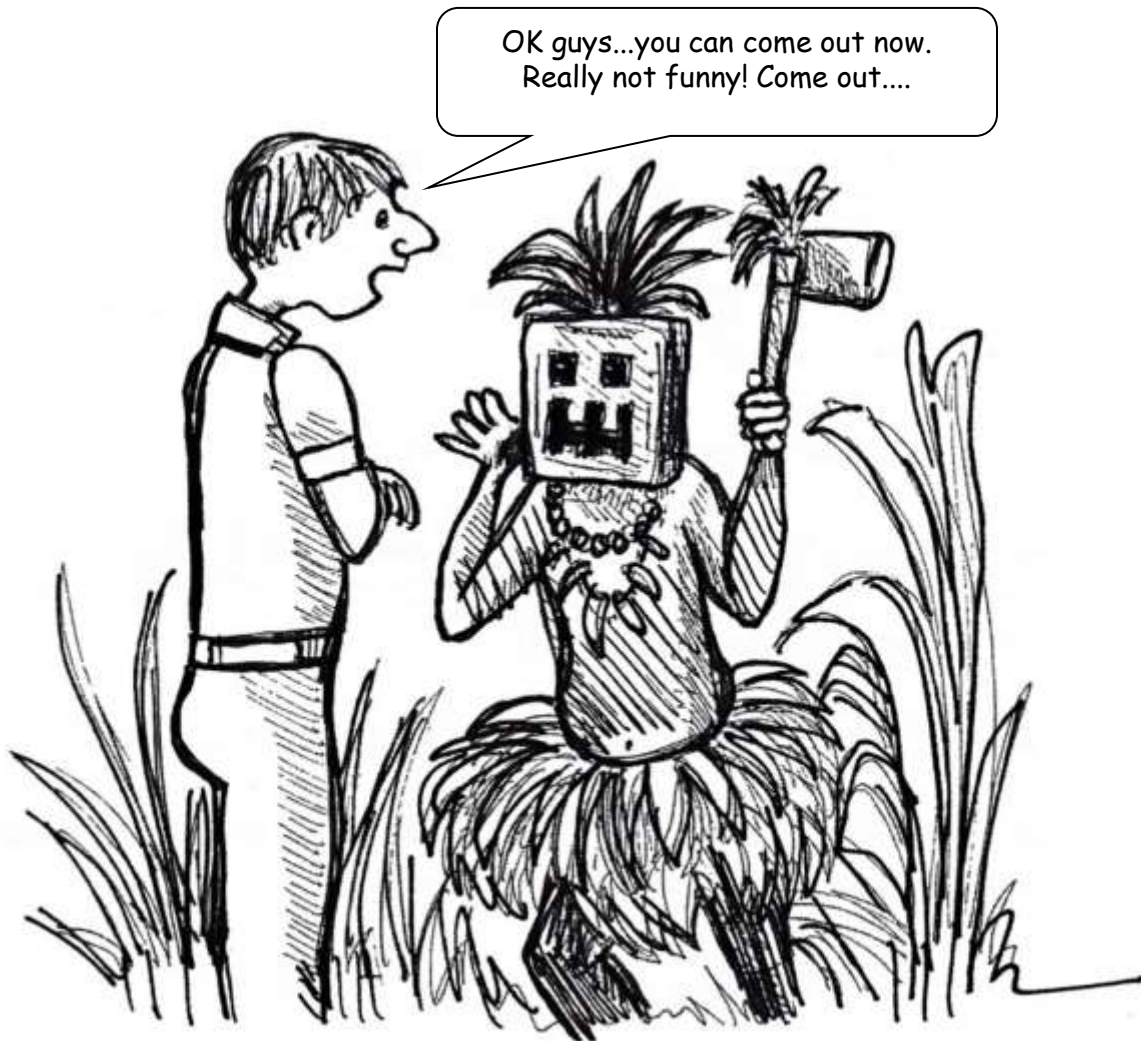
John Q. Missionary's wife has to make some adjustments while on the field.
It calls for flexibility and creativity.



Romans 8:28 (KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose..

ORIENTATION TO THE MISSION FIELD

John Q, Missionary gets a taste of a typical day in the village. Everything is a new adventure! So much to learn!



Romans 8:35-36 (NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

SOMETIMES "TOO BUSY" TO PRAY

John Q. Missionary discovers the difference between what is called "faith" and "presumption."

Prayer should come first.



Psalm 145:18 (NIV) The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

MISSIONARY SELF-ESTEEM

Bongo and Buttons set out to prove that anyone can be a missionary if he really wants to.

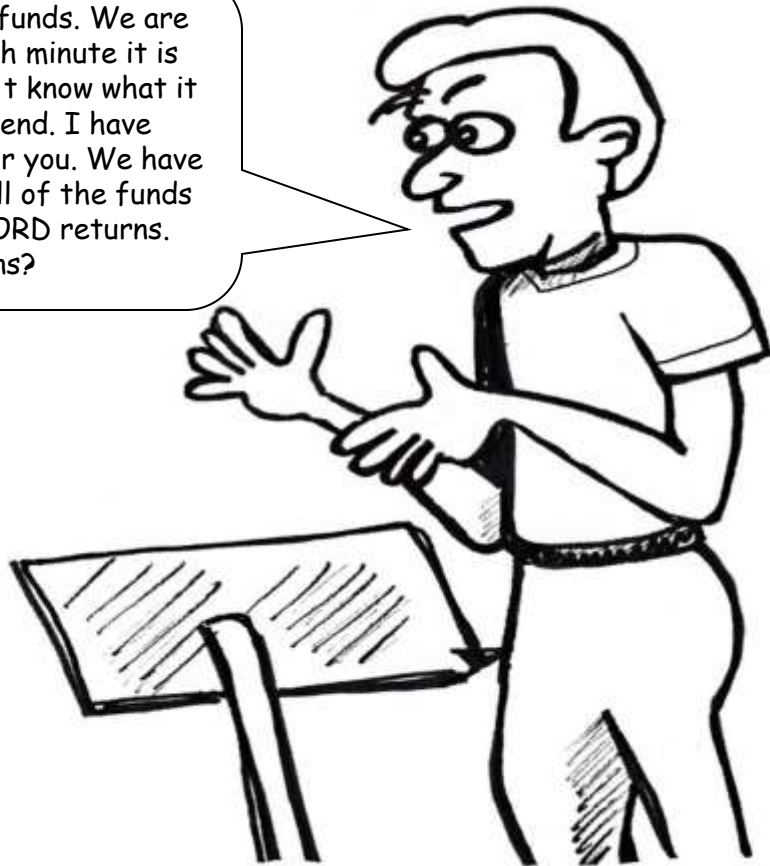


Romans 12:3 (NIV) For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

TRADITIONAL MISSIONARY METHODS

Missionary Math: By Faith

The new project has no funds. We are behind schedule, so each minute it is costing us more. We don't know what it really will cost in the end. I have prepared a guestimate for you. We have faith that we will have all of the funds available before the LORD returns. Any questions?



Philippians 4:6 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

MISSIONARY WIVES

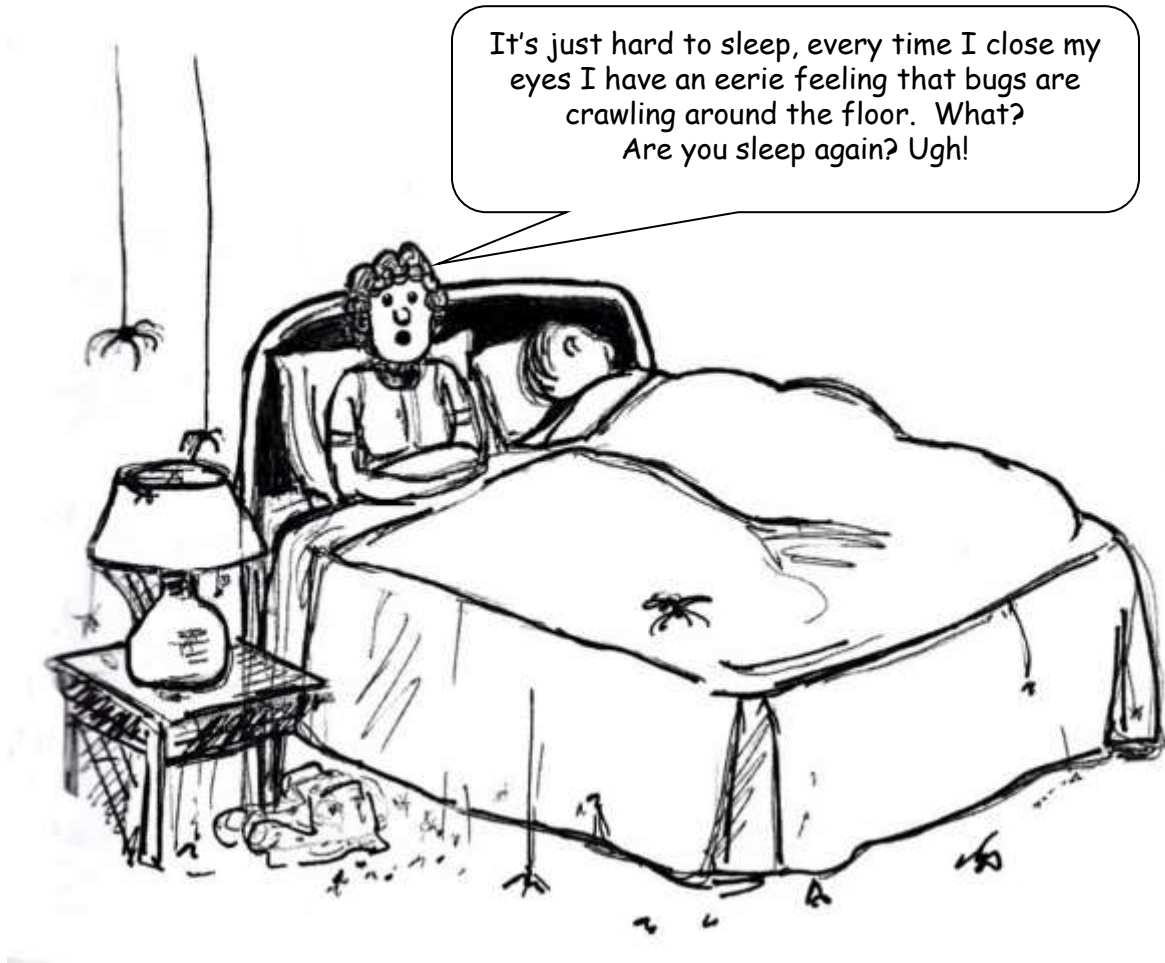
John Q. Missionary's wife finds her house just crawling with snakes...



Philippians 4:13 (KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

MISSIONARY LIVING WITH CREATURES

John Q. Missionary seems quite oblivious to small the moving objects in the night. He is too tired to notice!



Psalms 91:1 (NIV) Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

MISSIONARY MARRIAGES

There seems to be extra stress in missionary marriages.

Culture shock? Culture shock?
My culture shock began back
when we first got married!



Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

IRREPLACEABLE MISSIONARY

John Q. Missionary, when given a moment to speak about modern methods for recruitment, he decides to reveal his plan to "clone the best missionary."

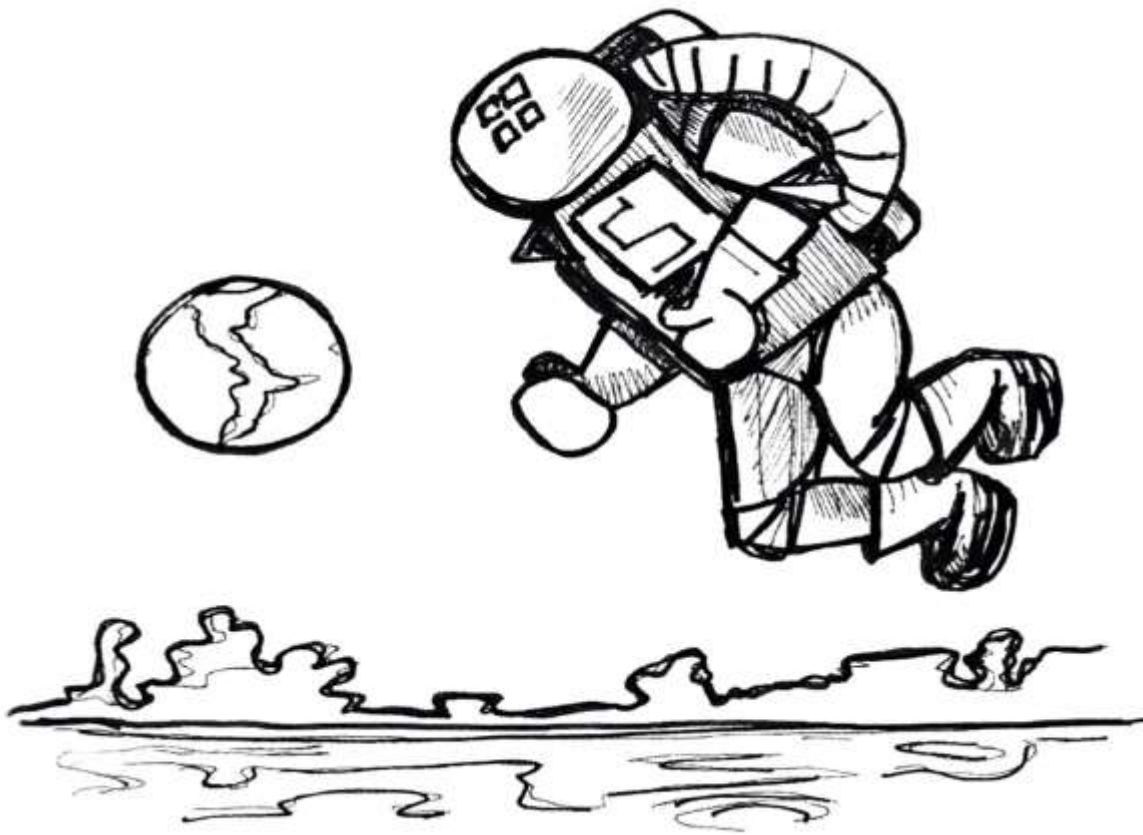
It's worth the investment...
we can't find
anyone.....
so just clone me.



Philippians 2:3-4 (KJV) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

NOT THAT FURLOUGH THING AGAIN

After a term on the mission field, John Q. Missionary comes home on furlough to discover that he has "reverse culture shock."



Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

RAISING SUPPORT: FEELS LIKE SELLING YOURSELF
John Q. Missionary develops his own "dog and pony"
show to raise support while on furlough.



2 Timothy 2:10 (KJV) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's
sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ
Jesus with eternal glory.

MISSIONARY FASHION MISTAKES

John Q. Missionary decides to "dress for success" with used clothes from the Thrift Store. Nothing like a snappy dresser! Image is everything.



Matthew 6:25 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

VISITING CHURCHES IN THE USA

John Q. Missionary and his wife Jane visit supporting churches while home on furlough from South America, but he discovers that after being gone for three years, they don't remember his name is or where he was.



Titus 2:12-13 (NIV) It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD

John Q. Missionary has trouble ordering coffee because he has too many choices. Simple things take a long, long time to do when you have reverse culture shock.

There are too many choices!

I'll take a sugar free pumpkin chocolate mocha decaf with sprinkles. No wait, make that a peanut brownie swirl. No wait, I want a strawberry cheesecake, no wait,maybe....uh.....



1 Corinthians 13:12-13 (NIV) For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

UNAWARE OF CHANGES IN LIKES AND DISLIKES

John Q. Missionary learns that his favorites are not on the menu at American Restaurants. He has to wait until he gets back to the field for that.



1 Corinthians 9:19, 23 (NIV) Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

GOING FROM LOW TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY OVERNIGHT
John Q. Missionary recently on furlough, feels like he is technologically challenged. While he does not have a Palm Pilot, he decides to write on his palm in order to save time and try to fit in like everyone else. It works.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

WHEN CULTURES BLUR AND COLLIDE...

A TRAGIC SCENARIO

John Q. Missionary tries to get rid of his old Bolivian coins at the local grocery store while on furlough.



Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV) Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

MISSIONARY FASHION STATEMENT

John Q. Missionary and wife don't realize how "ethnic" their dress style has become over the years. It causes a scene while on furlough because of the brightly colored weaved and strange fabric combinations. All originals.



James 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

MISSIONARIES AND FINANCIAL NEEDS

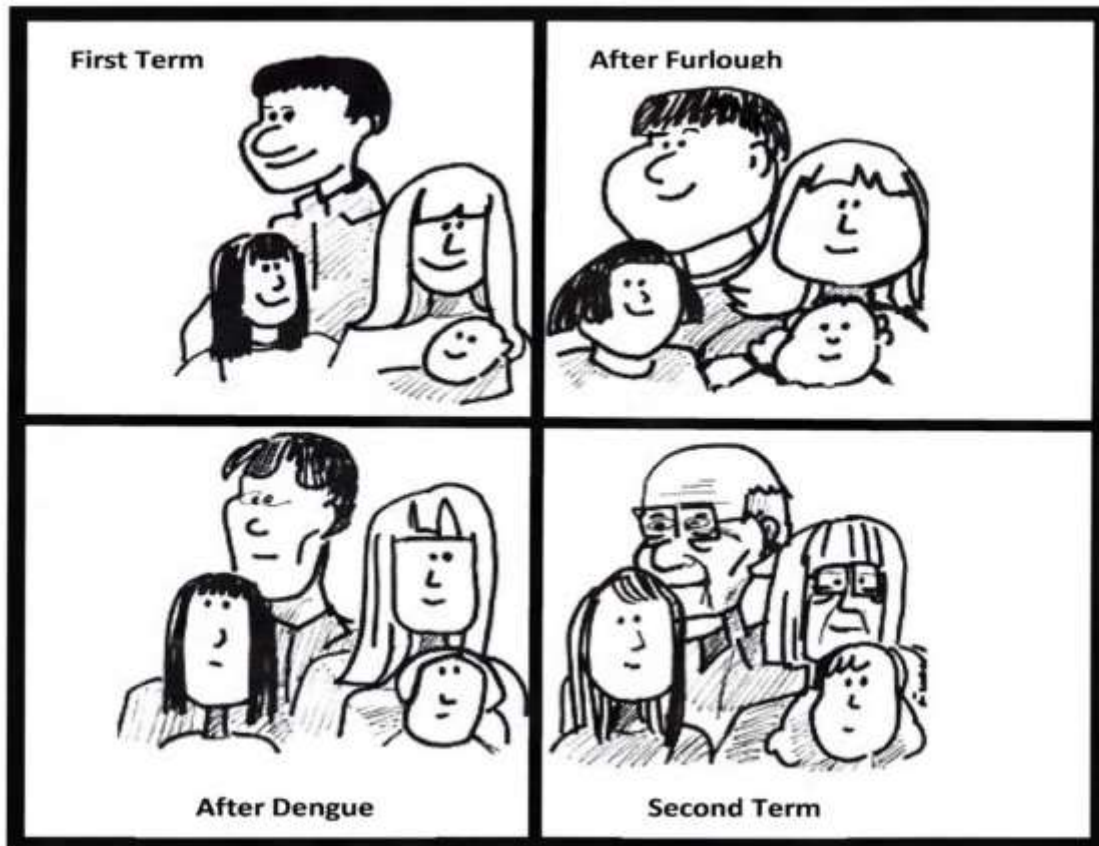
To make some extra cash, John Q. Missionary decides to sell some of his mission display on Ebay.



Philippians 3:7-8 (NIV) But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES - CHANGES

John Q. Missionary's Prayer Card documents the family transformation of aging and stress. The classic comments are: "I have your picture on my refrigerator," and "Haven't you grown?"



Isaiah 40:31 (KJV) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

ADJUSTING AMERICAN STYLE CHURCH PLANTING METHODS TO THE MISSION FIELD

John Q. Missionary discovers that he must develop
different strategies for working on the field.
It really is different that the USA!

Uh Oh, I don't think that my Holy Land Tour and Christian
Cruise package is going to work with this group!



Romans 1:17 (KJV) For therein is the righteousness of God
revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by
faith.

GUARANTEED: TRIALS, TESTING AND TROUBLE

This is what spiritual warfare was really like according to Mr. Missionary Scarecrow after his first term on the field:



Romans 8:31 (KJV) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

CONSTANT TRAVELING, ON THE GO

John Q. Missionary makes airport security go crazy with all of his personal carry on items...not counting the snakes in his luggage and food in his pockets.

IT'S ALL MY PERSONAL ITEMS, HONEST, JUST MY AYOREO ARROW HEADS, SPEARS, AND MY MACHETE FOR KILLING SNAKES AND MY HANDY POCKET KNIFE....



Psalm 121:7-8 (NIV) The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

AGING MISSIONARIES, OLDER AND BETTER

John Q. Missionary finds that his hair is prematurely gray after his first term. What is left of it anyway!



Psalms 25:5 (NIV) Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

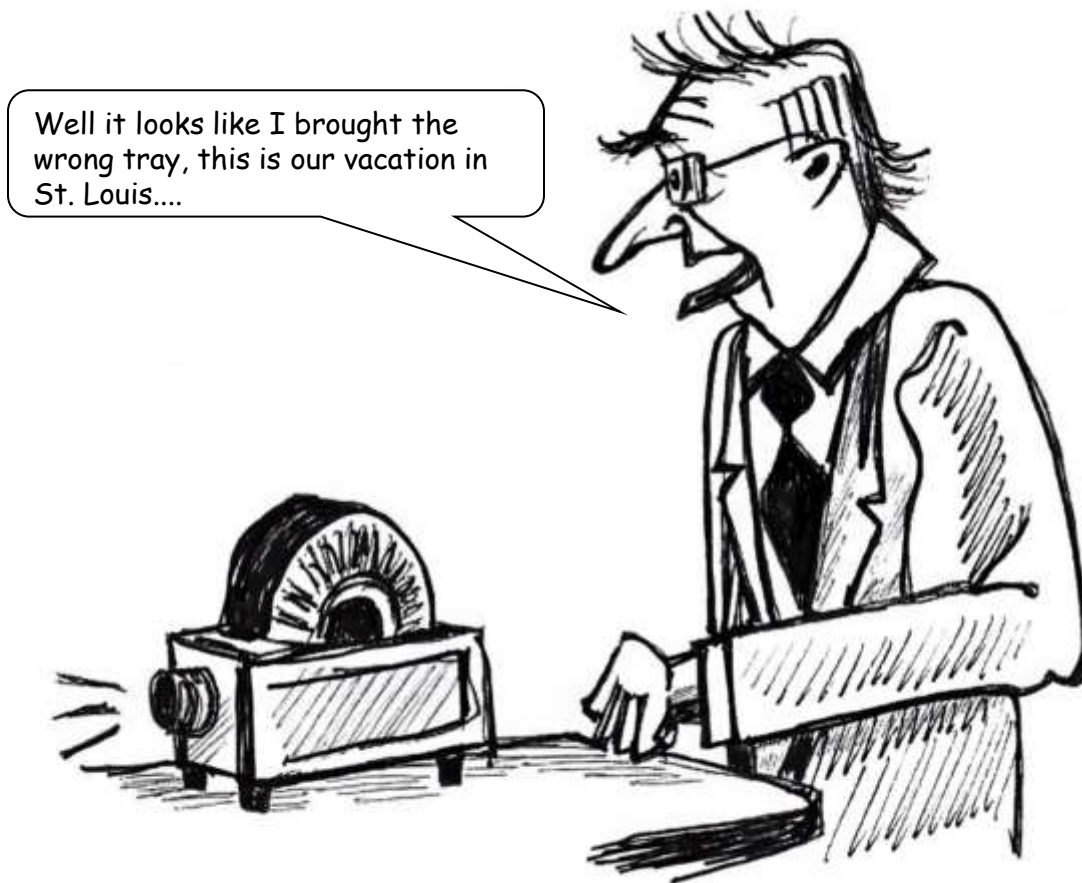
MISSIONARIES AND THEIR THINGS

John Q. Missionary unpacks his favorites books stored during furlough only to discover that bugs have eaten the pages and destroyed most of his stuff.



John 14:1-2 (NIV) Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

SENIOR MISSIONARIES...NEVER STOP,
THEY WILL BURN OUT, WEAR OUT, AND RUST OUT
BEFORE THEY WILL QUIT BEING A MISSIONARY



Isaiah 40:29-31(NIV) He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

MISSIONARY STRESS

Somehow, miraculously, no one at all seems to notice that John Q. Missionary and his family go totally undetected as they nearly explode from stress. (Now you should be aware!)



Psalms 45: 1-3 (NIV) God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. *Have you prayed for a missionary today?*

DON'T BE THE "UNKNOWN MISSIONARY" (SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT)

You came and were never known to the people. You never learned the language or learned the culture. When you left, no one noticed, and you missed a great opportunity that will be forever lost. Make it count.



Philippians 1:15, 18 (NIV) It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Carol Evaul lived in Bolivia for many years. She understands the reality of missionary life firsthand. She married a Missionary Kid (or an MK,) from Colombia, and they have four grown children. For that reason, she says that she lived in a house "surrounded by MKs." Her sense of humor may be the very survival tool that enabled her to laugh at herself and others while doing the serious business of "Christian Missionary Work."

While these cartoons were drawn to be somewhat truthful and humorous, they were also meant to cause some reflection. How do missionaries see themselves? How does the church see missionaries? Carol wants to share her experiences with you in order to sensitize you to the unique "Missionary Culture."

She has a desire to stir ideas about missionaries while challenging myths, notions and traditions that may be unrealistic and false. If anything, after reading this, you may feel a little more inspired to earnestly pray for missionaries because the task is not easy, the demands are burdensome, but the rewards are eternal. Missionaries are just imperfect people, but God is perfect and gracious to use the weakest vessels for His glory.

Use the cartoons, I give permission for reprinting, just be sure to give credit to the author/illustrator!

Humor is God's way of helping us to let go of situations and live in the moment. Funny situations thrive in the life of a missionary because so much is out of your control.

Carol and Robert Evaul were missionaries in Bolivia, South America for about 20 years. During that time they had many different experiences, of which some were dangerous and others hilarious.

Missionary life can be challenging at times, but also humorous. Missionaries should not take themselves too seriously, God uses and chooses people despite their many imperfections.

These cartoons are a comical view of missionary life. Carol Evaul has been a teacher, counselor and missionary. Living in the states now, has given her time to reflect on those experiences. She likes to draw and share her cartoons. She enjoys her grandchildren, Art projects and horses.

Visit her blog:

<https://carolevaul.wordpress.com/>